(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the shareholdings of Reserve Bank of India in State Bank of India is 59.73 per cent at present which cannot be reduced below 55 per cent;

(d) whether Government are giving relaxation for establishing foreign collaboration in State Bank of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has made certain suggestions to the Government in the light of a discussion paper prepared by Reserve Bank of India on "Harmonising the role and operations of development Financial Institutions and Banks." The transfer of shares of State Bank of India to the Government was one of the suggestions which was exploratory in nature. Transfer of Reserve Bank of India's shareholding in the State Bank of India to the Government will require an amendment to State Bank of India Act, 1955.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) does not arise.

Agreement of NBFCs with Foreign companies for Entry into Insurance Sector

†2043. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Non-Banking Financial companies have entered into agreement with a number of foreign companies to enter into the Insurance Sector:

(b) if so, the details thereof and what are the names of the said Non-Banking Companies and foreign companies; and

(c) what are the details of the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Government do not have any information in this matter.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has not issued any guidelines in this regard.

Approval of Tripura School Education Project

2044. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the governing body of OPEC Fund for International Development approved the Tripura School Education Projec. and sanctioned an amount of ten million U.S. dollars bearing 1percent interest per annum;

(b) if so, whether Government of Tripura has received any fund for the implementation of the said project from the External Agency; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The OPEC Fund was advised to cancel the proposed loan for the Tripura School Education Project as the proposed project does not fit in the framework of guidelines of Central Advisory Board on Education.

Externally Aided Projects submitted by NE States

2045. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects under Externally Aided Projects (EAP) submitted by the North-Eastern States, especially Tripura for the approval of the Central Government and release of funds by the External Agencies; and

(b) the number of these which have been aproved and the fund released project-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The details of ongoing State Sector Externally Aided Projects in North East including Tripura is given in Annexure *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 60] Besides there are Central Sector Projects under implementation in the North East. The status of proposals from North Eastern states for External assistance is given in the Annexure.